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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2015

DATE: April 6, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Grady Tarbutton, Director - Senior Services
328-2575 – gtarbutton@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Kevin Schiller – Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to authorize the Department of Senior Services to begin negotiations with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada for the operations of the Department's Senior Nutrition Programs, including congregate and "Meals on Wheels" services, in order to implement national best practices and leverage the capacity of a non-profit nutrition services agency.--Senior Services.
(All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Department recommends that the Board of County Commissioners to authorize the Department of Senior Services to begin negotiations with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada for the operations of the Department's Senior Nutrition Programs, including congregate and "Meals on Wheels" services, in order to implement national best practices and leverage the capacity of a non-profit nutrition services agency.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Achieving Long Term Financial Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

The BCC at its regular March 22, 2011 meeting awarded an invitation to bid for Food Management Services to Valley Services, Inc. in the approximate annual amount of \$775,000.00, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Administrator to execute a one (1) year agreement with up to two (2), one (1) year renewal options, at the discretion of the County.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County Senior Services has operated its Nutrition Services, including congregate and "Meals on Wheels" services through a private for-profit nutrition services company since the 1990's. Although there are benefits provided through contracts, which is used in many communities throughout the US, it is not considered the best practice model. In fact, the

AGENDA ITEM # 5G

Department provided the same number of meals per year from 1992 through 2012, in part because its for-profit sub-contractors are neither able to leverage local resources to expand a program nor able to develop new resources that could benefit the County and its senior residents.

The proposed negotiation with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada will allow the Department to sub-grant federal and grant local funds as allowed by NRS 244.1505 "Expenditure of public money; grant of public money and donation of certain property to certain nonprofit organizations or governmental entities." This practice is used by other Washoe County agencies, including the Department of Social Services, under grant guidelines which meet federal requirements of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Initially this grant agreement will continue the current programs operated by the Department. Long term strategies will support local fund raising for Nutrition Services and higher quality services, including conducting home safety assessments and daily home visits to homebound seniors. The Department of Social Services partnership with the Children's Cabinet shows the potential of this practice.

The Department has offered local non-profits the opportunity to bid on these Nutrition Services, but none other than Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada have submitted proposals. The Department Director has met with the management and boards of several non-profits to discuss this proposal beginning in 2008, but none other than Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada has expressed interest.

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's (CCNN) Executive Director and Governing Board are committed to meeting the needs of Washoe County seniors. Their sister agency, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) has successfully operated "meals on wheels" for seniors in Clark County, Nevada for many years under the same federal and state regulations that the Department will require of CCNN. CCSN has met with both CCNN and Department staff and has offered significant support for transition planning and daily operations, including the use of USDA certified menus prepared by CCSN's Registered Dietician.

This proposal matches national best practices recognized by the US Administration on Aging and the Meals on Wheels Association of America. For example, a "public-private partnership" is operated by Loaves and Fishes, Inc., a private non-profit in cooperation with local government in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. Loaves and Fishes has operated congregate and "meals on wheels" services since 1970. The partnership has allowed them to expand the number of meals served to vulnerable seniors through local and corporate fund raising, and created opportunities for innovative health and wellness services for seniors.

If approved, the Department will begin formal discussions with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada to negotiate the terms of the Nutrition Services grant from the Department and develop a transition plan to begin operations July 1, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT

Authorization to begin sub-grant negotiations with Catholic Charities will have no impact to the Department's FY 2014/2015 budget. However, a sub-grant agreement that will be brought

to the Board of County Commissioners for approval at a later date may have an impact on the department's FY 2015/2016 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that that the Board of County Commissioners to authorize the Department of Senior Services to begin negotiations with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada for the operations of the Department's Senior Nutrition Programs, including congregate and "Meals on Wheels" services, in order to implement national best practices and leverage the capacity of a non-profit nutrition services agency.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be "move to to authorize the Department of Senior Services to begin negotiations with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada for the operations of the Department's Senior Nutrition Programs, including congregate and "Meals on Wheels" services, in order to implement national best practices and leverage the capacity of a non-profit nutrition services agency."